WEST SHAWNIGAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

Date: March 26/03

Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Mar 26/03

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Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

WEST SHAWNIGAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park is to provide a diversity of day use outdoor recreational opportunities associated with a lake-side setting, including swimming, picnicking, boating, bird watching, nature appreciation and strolling. The park provides public access to Shawnigan Lake, a major summer destination. The park offers significant regional recreation opportunities in a relatively natural setting that is surrounded by residential, commercial and recreational cottage development. The large open grass area adjacent to the lake is popular with local and regional area residents for picnicking and as a beach access.

A number of other provincial parks offering a variety of similar day-use recreational opportunities are located in the region, including Spectacle Lake, Memory Island, Koksilah River, Bamberton, Goldstream and Cowichan River.

Secondary Role
A **secondary** role of the park is to protect natural and cultural features and values. Two blue-listed vascular plant species have been recorded in the area and others may exist. Approximately one-half of the park is undeveloped and is largely undisturbed by visitors, affording some measure of protection for native plant communities. The forested upland is typical of a mature second growth conifer forest associated with the wetter sub-zone of the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone.

There is evidence of past logging practices dating back to the early 1900s including old spring board notched stumps and road grades in the park, visible reminders of an important part of the region's logging history. There are no known archaeological sites within the park.

Known Management Issues	Response
Lack of management presence to protect existing facilities from vandalism.	Increase community awareness and promote local resident stewardship.
Pressure to develop lands surrounding Shawnigan Lake for recreational, residential and commercial development and park's proximity to Trans Canada Trail route will likely lead to increased park use as both a travel corridor and recreation holiday destination.	Increased facility development such as campground facilities may be required. Complete impact assessments as required. Liaise with agencies/stakeholders to address common concerns regarding the protection of the park's natural values.
Water contamination and swimming closures as result of extensive goose fouling.	Installation of plastic shore fence has helped to reduce geese grazing and resulting fouling; periodic closures of swimming area and posting of warning signs to promote public health safety. Develop alternative geese management strategy such as population controls to help mitigate water contamination.

Zoning

The main day use and parking area are located in the Intensive Recreation Zone (approximately 3 hectares or 33% of the park). A small Special Features Zone identifies the large native dogwood tree that is located in the day use area (approximately 0.03 hectares or <1% of the park). The remainder of the park (approximately 6 hectares or 66%) is zoned Natural Environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☐	Situated in the very poorly represented Nanaimo Lowland Ecosection (only 1.4% is protected provincially). West Shawnigan Lake contributes minimally (0.19% of overall representation of the ecosection) to the representation of this ecosection. Quality of representation is also poor due to the small size of the park.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☐	Located in the wetter sub-zone of the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone - CWHxm1 variant which is poorly represented (2.07%) in the protected areas system; West Shawnigan Lake contributes only 0.1% of the representation of the CWHxm1.
Special Feature	☒	Record sized Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nattallii) is* located in the open meadow day use area.
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Blue-listed species recorded in area – *Viola howellii* and *Senecio macourii* (no others have been assessed).
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	
destination	☒	Shawnigan Lake is a major summer destination area offering public and private commercial recreation facilities and a variety of outdoor activities.
travel corridor	☒	Strategically located between major urban centres; close proximity to main travel roads and proposed Trans Canada Trail route.
local recreation	☒	Shawnigan Lake is a popular regional day use and destination area providing a number of recreation sites.
Special Opportunities	☒	Potential commercial recreation opportunities for day use and camping activities.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	
Special Feature	☒	Remnants of early 1900s logging practices (e.g. old spring board notched stumps).

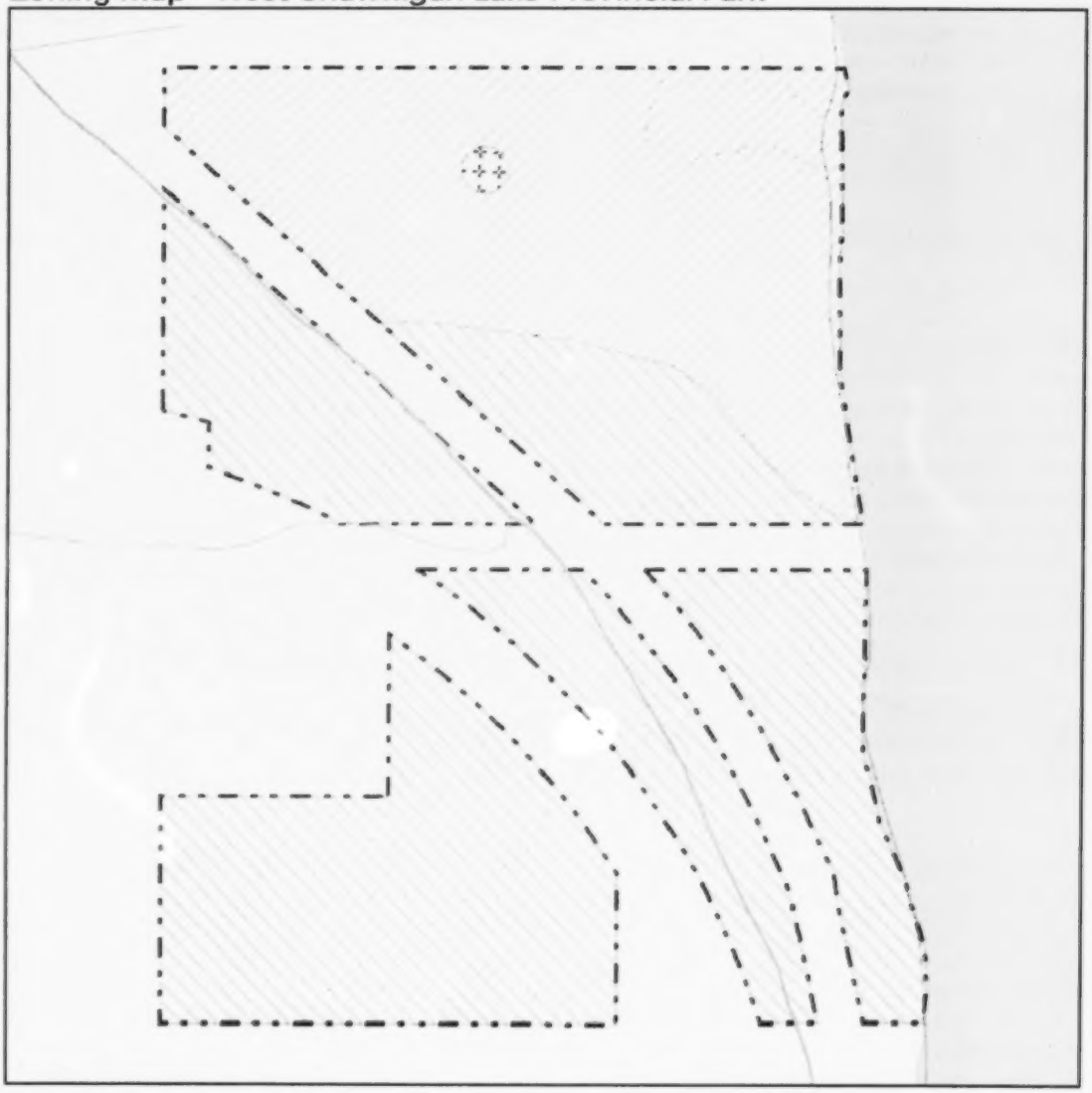
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	
Relationship to other PAs	☐	
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	
Partnerships	☒	Local community involvement in monitoring and reporting acts of vandalism (i.e. Park Watch); potential for local resident stewardship or commercial venture.
Vulnerability	☒	Surrounding land use development and increased outdoor recreation demand.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Proximity to Trans Canada Trail route; CVRD development of Regional Parks' Strategy Plan.

Area: 9 hectares

Date of establishment: February 23, 1979

Zoning Map - West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albure Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Special Feature
Protected Area Boundary

0 100
m

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